in New Delhi in March, 2002, China has suggested to India to synergise each other's strong points in the area of silk so that they can jointly corner a significant part of the growing international silk market;

(b) whether both the countries have signed an agreement in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) A Chinese textile delegation, led by the Vice President, China National Textile Industry council has visited India in March 2002. In its meeting with the Secretary (Textiles), the delegation had informal exchanges for building co-operation between the two countries in the field of textiles, including jute and silk. During the informal discussions, no agreement had been signed.

Amendment of Constitution for Providing Regional Reservation in Karnataka

*607 SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has forwarded a proposal for amendment of the constitution for providing regional reservation in Karnataka in the fields of education, employment etc;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken in this regard; and

(c) whether any similar requests have been received by the Ministry from other States, if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS' (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal has been received from the State Government of Karnataka to amend Article 371 of the Constitution for providing regional reservation in Karnataka in the field of education, employment etc. The State Government were asked for certain details/clarifications on their proposal. Some clarifications have been received from the State Government on 29.4.2002 which are under examination. No similar proposal to provide for regional reservation under Article 371 of the Constitution has been received from any other State.